

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be present for votes on May 21, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 4830 (Roll no. 207); H.R. 4451 (Roll no. 208) and H.R. 3832 (Roll no. 209).

## RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAACP BREMERTON UNIT 1134

### HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of NAACP Bremerton Unit 1134. I was pleased to celebrate this anniversary officially on Saturday, May 19, 2018 in Bremerton, Washington.

Mr. Speaker, according to the chief oral historian for the Washington State Legacy Project, in 1940 about 100 people of color lived in Bremerton. By 1944, more than 5,000 people of color moved to the region as part of a massive influx of patriots who came here to help the war effort. The town's population grew from 15,000 in 1940 to 75,000 in 1944.

That growth didn't come easily. And it only came because people like Lillian Walker and her husband James moved to the region from Illinois and helped form what became Unit 1134.

In 2009, Mrs. Walker, at 95 years old, told a historian: "I've always tried to treat people like I want to be treated. I don't care what color you are as long as you're a good person. I've never understood prejudice, and I've never put up with it. I always said, 'Well, you're either with me or against me. And if you're against me, that means we're going to have to fight!'"

And she fought.

Mr. Speaker, our nation still has work to do to achieve the dream that Dr. King spoke of not far from this Capitol. The fight for equality continues, and the NAACP—as it has done in Bremerton for 75 years—is leading the way. Anywhere in our country where there is inequality, the NAACP is there. The NAACP is leading the fight against discrimination at the polls. They are bridging the divide between people of color and our nation's police officers. They are pushing for better schools that give all our kids the skills they need to reach their dreams.

They're working to end gun violence. And they're pushing for more opportunities for more people in more places.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, please join me in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of NAACP Bremerton Unit 1134.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 21, 2018, I was unable to be in Washington and missed Roll Call votes No. 207, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes; No. 208, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs; and No. 209, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the executive director of a national network of State-based prescription monitoring programs under which Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers shall query such network, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on all three bills.

## HONORING JEREMIAH ALLEN RUSSELL

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Russell. Jeremiah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 333, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jeremiah has become a member of the tribe Mic-O-Say. Jeremiah has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jeremiah acquired, assembled and installed outdoor park benches at Parkville Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## CONDEMNING ASSAULT ON FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS DURING HUNGER STRIKE IN SINDH, PAKISTAN

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I express my grave concerns about the human rights situation in the Sindh province of Pakistan, with special reference to enforced disappearances of persons at the hands of Pakistani security agencies. Many of the disappeared persons are from the Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM), Jeay Sindh Mutehada Mahaz (JSMM), and Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM). The disappeared persons also include teachers, intellectuals, writers, and publishers. Six of my House colleagues joined me in sending a letter to the State Department on this issue in August 2017. I also raised this issue on the floor of the House in October 2017, and this problem of enforced disappearances was discussed in a February 2018 hearing of the Asia Subcommittee at the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I strongly condemn an incident that occurred this past weekend, when Pakistan's security forces assaulted the families of disappeared and missing persons who were on a hunger-strike in protest of these disappearances.

The family members of Sindhi victims of enforced disappearances (mainly their daughters and wives, as male members are being held by the security forces or have moved underground or remain silent as they fear the security agencies) and their friends have launched a peaceful nonviolent protest for their release. The daughters and wives of the disappeared persons were engaged in a 72-hour hunger strike in front of the Press Club at Karachi that began May 20. During this nonviolent protest, Pakistani security forces or their agents assaulted two daughters of the disappeared Hidayat Lohar (an elementary school headmaster who was taken away in April 2017 in front of school children) and two daughters of Khadim Arijio (a civil servant missing since April 2017). Security forces also reportedly detained about five of the nonviolent activists, though it seems they have been released.

It is crucial that Pakistan immediately cease these and other related human rights violations in the Sindh province. Pakistani security personnel and others involved in the enforced disappearances should be held accountable. I urge the U.S. State Department and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as well as our ambassador in Pakistan, to take up this issue with the civilian and military leadership of Pakistan. Our ambassador to Pakistan must receive guarantees from the Pakistani government regarding the protection of human rights defenders and of those who advocate for Sindh's missing persons. It will be even more significant to set up a bipartisan fact finding mission to probe enforced disappearances and related killings in Sindh.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.